The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Samuel Gompers said:

We can make of the trade unions exactly what the intelligence and progress of our members will permit. The organization as a body is a scientific character, and whatever action is agreed upon by the majorities whenever issues are to be formulated and achieved by and through the trade unions.

WHOLE NO. 2031 — WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1950 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* — VOL. 40, NO. 11

Abolish Denham, Truman Proposes

Washington. — President Truman has asked Congress to abolish the position of an independent counsel for the National Labor Relations Board and do away with the 5-man Maritime Commission.

His recommendations were contained in 21 government reorganization plans aimed at carrying out many changes advocated by the Hoover Commission in the interest of efficiency and economy.

Mr. Truman sent his message to Congress a few days after Robert N. Denham, NLRB general counsel, had said that the President approved to be satisfied with his performance. Mr. Denham, deep in a pitched battle with the 5-man labor board over interpretation of the Taft-Hartley law, made the remark after the AFL and other labor groups had demanded his removal for his pro-employer attitude.

An unwarranted attack on the AFL Teamsters Union prompted the AFL executive council to call for Mr. Denham's removal on the grounds that he is "unfit" for his post.

The President said his plan "will bring to an end the confusion which has resulted from divided responsibility."

"The Senate last year indicated its approval of this action," he said. "The reorganization plan is effect restores unified authority and responsibility of the board. As in the case of other plans for regulatory agencies, certain administrative and executive responsibilities are placed in the chairman. . . . This action eliminates a basic defect in the present organization of the National Labor Relations Board and provides an organizational pattern consistent with that established for other regulatory agencies."

The No. 1 recommendation by the Hoover Commission in its report on regulatory agencies was that "all administrative responsibility be vested in the chairman." It also recommended that all such agencies be bipartisan in makeup.

The latest chapter in the bickering between the NLRB and Mr. Denham occurred when the board took back some of the powers it had delegated to him. It ruled it would have the final say on hiring and firing the chiefs of regional and subregional offices and in settling those offices up and eliminating them.

Mr. Denham said he would not stand for the board trying "to usurp" his authority and that he would seek a showdown.

Mr. Denham also has criticized decisions of the board, maintaining that these decisions repealed the Taft-Hartley Act by interpretation. The board replied that this criticism was an almost impossible situation, pointing out that it would be Mr. Denham's duty to defend decisions which are challenged and taken to the Court of Appeals.

To replace the Maritime Commission, which has been a regular agency of the government for some time, the President proposed a 3-man Maritime Board and a Maritime Administration in the Commerce Department.

The new board would take over from the commission its regulatory duties and the award of subsidies for shipbuilding and operation. Ship construction and other administrative operations would be carried out by the Maritime Administrator in Commerce. There also would be an undersecretary of commerce for transportation to direct the expanded transportation activities of the department.

In an over-all message accompanying his plans, Mr. Truman told Congress he is convinced they "will lead us well along the road toward more effective, economical and responsible government." He said the plans are all designed to carry out recommendations of the Hoover Commission on government reorganization.

The other plans would centralize authority in 6 cabinet officers and transfer some small agencies to the labor department.

NO-UNION POLICE ORDER IS UNFAIR

Cambridge, Mass. — William V. Ward, president of the AFL Massachusetts Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, condemned an order forbidding members of the Cambridge police force from joining a labor union.

The order was read by Police Chief John R. King, president of the Massachusetts Police Chiefs Association, at a roll call of officers. He said it "was designed to prevent formation of the department because a policeman's first duty is to the community."

Mr. Ward called the order "unfair in both police officers and laborers." He pointed out that "all our contracts with police departments have a no-strike clause."

Name Businesses Cheating U. S.

New York.—A special federal grand jury indicted 34 business men and 6 corporations for cheating Uncle Sam of $2,032,649 in income taxes by failing to report vast income.

Stricter enforcement would go a long way toward plugging up this loophole through which so much money is leaking away.

Don't Bust Unions With Soft Soap

Chicago. — Most so-called human relations fail because, first, management looks on them as a means of breaking unions.

That plain talk was given the American Management Association by Peter F. Drucker, Montclair, N. J., management consultant.

"Programs of personnel and labor relations are beginning to place too much emphasis on appreciation and politeness and too little on improving working conditions, Mr. Drucker said.

"The emphasis should be on the job itself," he said.

Pay Radio Tribute To Andy Furuseth

Washington.—The AFL's nation-wide radio program paid tribute to Andrew Furuseth in honor of the 80th birthday anniversary March 12 of the "Abraham Lincoln of the Sea."

The tribute came at the end of the AFL program broadcast on March 13." The announcer said:

"This program, the 80th birthday anniversary of Andrew Furuseth founder of the Seafarers' Union, is written by the merchant seamen of America.

"With good reason, he has been called the Abraham Lincoln of the Sea, because like most of their life to free American seamen from conditions bordering on slavery. The career of Andrew Furuseth, the first Seafarer's Union in America, should be studied by every schoolboy, for a man who wanted nothing for himself. He devoted all his energies to the welfare of others.

"A son of the Norseland, Furuseth became a great American, with an unfaltering faith in Congress for the common man under free, democratic government and a great contempt for Communist hypocrisy. The name of Andrew Furuseth will always stand high on the honor roll of American patriots and will be kept the good fight to eliminate man's inhumanity to man.

Silas B. Axtell, chairman of the Seafarers' Union of Pacific Legislative Association, said that Mr. Furuseth "gave himself for humanity" will never be forgotten.

Now there is a municipal radio station WNYC broadcast a program on March 13 in Mr. Furuseth's memory with Homer T. Bishop, Seminole, Okla., and Will Durham, representatives of the International Transport Workers' Federation, as speakers.

AFL UNIONS WIN PITTSBURGH HIKE

Pittsburgh, Pa.— Wage increases for employes of the Pittsburgh Parking Authority have been granted in negotiations between the authority and individual unions of the AFL Building Service Employes.

Employes will get $150 more a year with the exception of laborers and janitors. They will get $125.

The authority will contribute at the rate of paying 5 percent toward employes' retirement plan if persons 2 percent to catch up on years when the pension plan was not in effect. Employes pay 5 percent toward their pensions on a contributory basis.

FIGHT ONSLAUGHT IN MISSISSIPPI

Jackson, Miss.—The Mississippi Federation of Labor is valiantly fighting an onslaught of anti-labor legislation in the state legislature's assembly at Mississippi.

Federation President W. L. Hines reports that the Mississippi Economic Council, a reactionary group active evil deer that has been created principally for the purpose of generating anti-labor thinking in the state of Mississippi, has sponsored and is supporting five bills introduced especially in the General Assembly of Mississippi.

The bills are: one anti-closed shop bill, a secondary boycott bill, a secret-ballot bill, a bill to limit picketing jurisdictional strikes, and a bill prohibiting picketing except by the U.S. All bills have received the active opposition of the friends of the Mississippi Legislature and the labor representatives in the state.

GM Sets Record With 1949 Profit

New York.—General Motors Corp. reported net earnings for 1949 of $656,416,792, or $10.69 per net recorded by an American corporation. It was an increase of 49 percent over 1948.

With its profit record, GM could well set an example for all profit-earning, self-governing, responsible groups of granting immediate substantial improvements in working hours and wage conditions to the thousands of people who helped to make the record possible.

As the editorial writers say so often of labor occasionally, here is a chance for statesmanship.

Asheville CLU Gains Members

Asheville, N. C.—Asheville Central Labor Union, James F. Barrett, president, has announced that the assumed quota in the 1,000,000 member campaign has been accomplished thus far in 1950.

The CLU assumed a quota of 1,250 new members for 1950 and at the end of February has turned in a count in excess of its monthly quota.

Many other areas have also met their quota and more.

Gompers Enjoyed a Good Cigar

Washington.—Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor, is shown in an unusually good human interest pose enjoying a good cigar while working at his desk in the AFL headquarters. Mr. Gompers was a member of the AFL Cigarmakers International Union. He was born on Jan. 27, 1850, in London and died in San Antonio, Tex., on Dec. 13, 1924. The AFL is marking the centennial of his birth this year with a yearlong observance.

Two Types of European Housing

Washington.—The Economic Cooperation Administration released these photographs showing how European workers are meeting the housing crisis in their countries. In Holland (top) an American ECA-financed concrete blocking machine helps speed production of these bungalows. Built of Beerlte-bricks costing approximately $2,000. Workers say the price is expected to go down another 10 percent. In Greece (bottom) refugees are building shelter in two-room stone dwellings while the Greek government is building to take care of 30,000 homeless refugees after the war.

AFL Defeats CIO At Aluminum Co.

Davenport, Iowa.—The AFL Interim Committee for Collective Bargaining reviled the CIO United Steelworkers' union election to decertify bargaining rights for 2,000 employes of the Aluminum Company of America at its big sheet mill here.

The victory is one of the outstanding successes of the Samuel Gompers Organizing Drive being currently conducted to gain 1,000,000 new AFL members this year. The campaign honors the 100th anniversary of the birth of the AFL founder.

William L. Cowley, secretary-treasurer of the victorious AFL union, reports:

"The Samuel Gompers Centennial Committee, headed by AFL Vice President Matthew Woll, has compiled the following excerpts:

New York Evening News—Nearly all of the great Americans of the last century could possibly omit the name of Samuel Gompers, who organized the labor movement in 1886, and with the exception of one year, 1893, was its president until his death in December 1924 . . . He had the respect of the Presidents and lawmakers and even of some great industrialists with whom he fought lustily but inch labor's programs upward. Because of his efforts labor had been truly emancipated, and living standards for most other workers were vastly improved.

Louisville, Ky., Times—Most American success stories concern the struggle of a man to rise from poverty to riches—for himself. The success story of Samuel Gompers deals with the rise of one man from poverty to relative riches for others . . . In improving the lot of workingmen he sought to raise them, not for himself, but for general standard.

Rock Island, Ill., Argus—The nation has reason to be thankful for his influence and energy in perpetuating the memory of a great American.

Superior, Wis., Telegram — In our opinion, Gompers, more than any figure in American history, has compelled the admiration of millions of workers who were virtually slaves to their employers. He were given a life. Through his leadership there was the beginning of the long climb to the philosophy that a worker had some dignity and that he is more than a tool. It is pity that men who write history books for the children have so little space to men like Gompers.

Shenandoah, Pa., Herald — Samuel Gompers remains as one of the world's great labor leaders. For more than 50 years, he held high the standard of clean, militant trade unionism. His last words are worth recalling: 'Both in our American institutions. May they grow better day by day.'

Pittsburgh, Penn., Record—It is fitting that the people of the United States pay tribute to the memory of the immigrant cigar maker whose courage and vision contributed so much to welfare of the American working man, and to the economic prosperity of the whole nation.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Eagle—From the times of its organization in 1886 until his death in 1924, with the exception of one year, Samuel Gompers was the president of the American Federation of Labor. He saw the worker progress from a drudge to a human being in relation, to a living wage. The improvement wrought was largely the work of his own energy, his wisdom, the enlightenment of his leadership, the confidence he inspired among his own followers, employers and the public.

Washington, D. C. Star—The great American Federation of Labor president was a national figure in the full sense of the phrase and even now, though he has been dead more than a quarter century, his influence still is felt throughout the nation.

Papers Praise Gompers

AUTO WORKERS WIN BIG PLANT

Montpelier, Ind.—Despite the fruitless efforts of the Dryden Rubber Co. to prevent their victory, the AFL United Automobile Workers of America, rocketed through to a top-heavy triumph in the NLRB vote at the plant.

The AFL Auto Workers scored a 2-to-1 win over the other contestants combined. The contestants included a CIO union and an independent outfit of do-it-home bodies.

The day before the election, the company threw a huge barbecue and picnic. This failed to discourage the workers and those who had difficulty arranging transportation were taken to the polls by the UAW-AFL. The CIO union attempted the same service but wound up with only a handful of votes.

The plant, a subsidiary of the Sheller Manufacturing Corporation, is expected to employ 1,200 people by the first of the year. Its parent company is the world's largest independent of automobile steering wheels and body hardware by the UAW-AFL for some years.

It is something of the anti-union bias of the community's businessmen was the fact that UAW-AFL representatives could not even get rooming or lodgings in the town and had to stay at the homes of workers.

ECA Helps Europe Rebuild Its Homes

Washington.—Houses for European workers are now appearing where only the rubble of bombed buildings lay a short time ago.

With Marshall Plan aid, shelter is being provided for thousands of homeless families. American machinery, ECA-financed building materials and counterpart funds are all contributing to the gigantic task of producing homes to replace those destroyed during the war.

Already ECA has approved the release of more than $160,000,000 in counterpart funds for housing under the Marshall Plan countries. In addition, part of the building materials for these dwellings comes from $95,000,000 worth of lumber and $440,000,000 worth of non-ferrous metals which ECA has authorized for European recovery since the start of the program.

In Holland, prefabricated houses are springing up on land reclaimed since the dikes were broken in World War II. In Italy, ECA is helping to speed the construction. The Dutch say that their most modern one-room cages of 60,000 to 70,000 houses annually over the next 10 to 15 years.

Thousands of refugees roam the country in Greece. But the first new villages of people are being moved from overcrowded areas to healthier and more sanitary sites. Homes for some 30,000 families will be provided from $25,000,000 in counterpart funds. Most of the building materials, with the exception of lumber and building accessories, are of Greek origin.

Workers, employers and some state contributions will finance the Italian plan. In Italy, this is a long-range, 7-year, building program which calls for the construction of 903,000 rooms.

This is not just an isolated case of starvation among these people who have been driven from their homes or their crops of our country, but is merely a symptom of a grave problem which extends through the southern half of Europe.

"A thorough investigation would probably show that children are starving to death, but 100,000 or more.

"In view of the emergency existing in South Korea, I believe that the United States may we urge that you take immediate distribution of some of the huge stock of surplus foodstuffs which is piled high in those who are in actual need, causing public accommodations to be made that such foods are available at reasonable distributing points."

Mr. Mitchell urged the president also to order federal agencies to enforce immigration and employment laws against illegal Mexican labor and to clean up the federally-owned labor camps.

Unions Support Israel Housing

New York.—The AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union has pledged to purchase $1,000,000 worth of bonds of the new American Israel Housing Corporation to build low-cost homes in Israel.

Sponsors of the new corporation chartered by New York State and headed by Irving Howe, ILGWU publicist, include ILGWU President David Dubinsky; AFL President William Green, President Hugo Ernst of the Cigar Makers' International Union, Jacques Untan, and President Max Zaritsky of the United Hatters Union.

The program envisages the construction of 5,000 homes in the $7,000-$3,000 price range throughout Israel for workers and immigrants. Completion of this project is expected to cut sharply into the tent-and-barrack-type cities that have heretofore characterized the country's growth and development.

Construction of the homes—in the main they will be concrete—will be undertaken by Histadrut, the Israel housing cooperative, as soon as funds are available. Negotiations are under way, however, to put the construction program to high gear with mass production techniques developed by the American corporation. Much of the materials for the homes are now in Israel, and the rest will be molded sections will have to be imported.

A Child Died

Louisville, Ky. — Odell Murphy, 5, died of pneumonia to which he fell a victim after lying in a coal shed because of a lack of heat. Police Chief Lee put his jobless mother, Mrs. Myra M. Murphy, 32, in jail on a charge of neglecting her child.

Urges U. S. Feed Hungry Children

Washington. — President H. L. Mitchell of the AFL National Farm Labor Union urged President Truman to ask Congress for a sum to be estimated 100,000 children of farm labor families from dying of starvation.

Mr. Mitchell said in part:

"In March 5 newspapers carried a United Press dispatch from Phoenix, Ariz., stating that 100 children were found starving to death in a farm labor camp managed by the Arizona Farm Bureau Federation. Many of these children have no proper food for as long as 30 days.

"This is not just an isolated case of starvation among these people who have been driven from their homes or their crops of our country, but is merely a symptom of a grave problem which extends through the southern half of Europe.

"A thorough investigation would probably show that children are starving to death, but 100,000 or more.

"In view of the emergency existing in South Korea, I believe that the United States may we urge that you take immediate distribution of some of the huge stock of surplus foodstuffs which is piled high in those who are in actual need, causing public accommodations to be made that such foods are available at reasonable distributing points."

Mr. Mitchell urged the president also to order federal agencies to enforce immigration and employment laws against illegal Mexican labor and to clean up the federally-owned labor camps.

Democrats Back New Housing Bill In Finish Fight

Washington.—William M. Boyle, Jr., chairman of the Democratic National Committee, called on party officials throughout the country to urge senators to support the Administration's middle-income housing program.

In telegrams to members of the National Committee and state chairmen and vice chairmen, Mr. Boyle noted that opponents were claiming sufficient votes to defeat the measure on the showdown when the Senate is scheduled to vote on the issue.

"I know that the majority of those who voted the Democratic ticket in 1948 are strongly in favor of this middle-income housing bill, and I am glad you are doing all you can to make their views known to the members of the Senate," he telegraphed. "I am counting on your support."

The middle-income bill is based on the sound principle of locally operated cooperatives. These local groups will be assisted in planning and organization by self-liquidating loans from private investors to be loaned to the cities for actual construction.

"Those of you who have had experience with the Rural Electrification Administration know or with farmer co-ops know how much co-ops have been able to accomplish in the housing field."

Former AFL President William Green had wired state federations of labor and central bodies to urge telegraph senators and representatives to get behind the middle-income cooperative housing measure.

Many AFL representatives were in the fight to the finish, seeking a victorious outcome, a telegram by the 1949 convention at St. Louis.

SHISHKIN LAUDS FRENCH UNIONS

Paris.—Boris Shishkin, director of the European Office of Economic Cooperation Administration, praised the French Confederation of Labor, federation for its leadership in aiding, and stimulate badly needed housing for French workers.

Mr. Shishkin attended ceremonies opening a two-week exhibit by the French cooperative movement to meet need for housing.

The exhibition, which represents three-quarters of a million French workers, was opened and released a detailed "charter" for a housing program for France. It urged as means of solving the housing problem, "a serious state grant appropriations from Marshall Plan funds, municipal and departmental subsidies."

British Labor Wins on Housing

London.—The Labor Government of Britain is confident of success once on the issue of whether it has attempted to meet the British housing shortage with adequate funds.

With a common majority that has been shrunk to 6, the government defended itself on housing more decisively. The national allocation of iron and steel. The vote on housing was 314 to 308. The vote to go ahead with steel nationalization was 310 to 296.

The Conservatives had charged that the Labor Government was not doing enough homes and was building too many to rent, not enough to sell.

You Can't Sleep If You Want Housing

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent for AFL Weekly News Service

Chicago.—In the second city of the United States, where 270,000 families are living in slums or doubled up in substandard dwellings, the Catholic Labor Alliance and various civic, religious and social groups have joined hands to help.

But spokesmen for the home owners, organized into cooperative home owners' associations, urged rejection of public housing.

It appeared everybody was in favor of public housing, so long as it was the other fellow's ward. A few public-spirited aldermen hinted out their homes have to be built somewhere, but the aldermen carried the day.

It is still possible the Chicago Housing Authority will pick other sites which the city council will approve, but they are working against a deadline. Complete plans for all 21,000 homes are ready. The government's bonds by August 1.

As Tom Slater pointed out, the public low-cost housing is the key to the whole housing problem. Without it, private, in Chicago. Forty square miles of slums must be cleared and razed for private development until the city has built enough public low-rent housing to move to. For thousands of families and other private interests are waiting for the city's success so they can rebuild economically on a mass production scale.

So the delay in site selection actually is holding up construction of about 50,000 more private apartments and houses.

"It will be the difference between full employment and unemployment for hundreds of building mechanics and others in the construction trades," said Slater.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

Samuel Gompers said:

To withhold opportunity for Education for a crime committed against our people is a crime committed against our Republic.

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1950 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Company-Union NEA Fights Aid to Teachers

Chicago.—The AFL American Federation of Teachers charged the "company-union" National Education Association is opposing extension of social security to teachers and attacking the AFL union in a manner "highly unprofessional, extremely reprehensible and thoroughly dishonorable."

The charge was made by Irvin R. Kuenzle, secretary-treasurer of the International Federation of Teachers.

"The National Education Association is not only opposing extension of social security to teachers by two-thirds vote as provided in H.R. 6000 but is also using this bill as basis for a bitter attack upon American Federation of Teachers and particularly upon Selma Borchardt as Washington representative," Mr. Kuenzle told AFL officials.

He said the NEA "has misrepresented facts" in an attempt to create "deliberately such impression among teachers regarding one part of a bill as to threaten passage of the entire bill which would do so much to provide for the welfare of millions of children now in the schools and their parents."

Mr. Kuenzle said further:

"National Education Association has gone so far as to send a communication to local NEA organizations urging them to contact officers of locals of the American Federation of Teachers and urge them not to follow the program recommended by the convention of the American Federation of Teachers and pointed out by Miss Borchardt's testimony.

"In this manner the NEA is attempting to destroy the confidence of locals of AFT, cause dissension in locality ranks and weaken its labor support. Such action on part of a company union organization we believe to be highly unprofessional, extremely reprehensible and thoroughly dishonorable.

"The NEA is vigorously opposing inclusion of teachers under social security despite the fact that the great majority of the teachers of the United States have grossly inadequate pension systems and thousands of teachers are under systems which provide not less than the present inadequate social security benefits.

"This attack by the NEA in opposition to the best interests of classroom teachers seems to be further proof that the NEA program is under domination of superintendents rather than classroom teachers who have the greatest need for sound pensions. Even under the weakest pension systems administrators are known to receive much larger pensions than the average classroom teacher and consequently have less need for social security benefits.

"There is no sound reason to believe that enactment of H.R. 6000 with amendments proposed by the AFT and acceptable to the AFT, would in any way jeopardize existing sound pension systems."

California Asks State Aid on Jobs

San Francisco.—An urgent appeal that Governor Warren call a special session of the California state legislature to consider growing unemployment, rising rents, and other problems was made by the quarterly meeting of the executive council of the California State Federation of Labor.

The council announced that the preliminary convention of the California Labor League for Political Education would be held in San Francisco, April 17, 18 and 19.

In other important actions the council voted full moral and financial support to the present organizing campaign of the AFL Warehousemen in the San Francisco Bay area, intense opposition to the importing of Mexican "farm labor at a time when there are 65,000 unemployed agricultural workers in California and more than 470,000 unemployed throughout the state," full support for the Building Actors Guild, AFL, in its drive against blacklist racketeers in the motion picture industry; condemnation of the union picture industry; condemnation of the union picture industry; condemnation of revising old films without stipulating date of original release and any original title when there has been a change in title.

TO STUDY SLAVERY

Lake Success, N. Y.—The United Nations Economic and Social Council voted at its wind-up meeting of this session to carry out a complete study on slavery and other practices of human bondage still existing in various parts of the world.

The council's decision, passed in a 12 to 0 vote, with Peru and China abstaining, authorized a three-man committee on slavery to transmit its proposed questionnaire to all members and nonmember nations after the committee's subsequent group of experts, revises the current draft to omit any mention of forced labor and trade union rights.

This omission was requested by the council because the question of forced labor was felt by the majority to be in a different category from slavery, and in any event already was under separate examination.

The council previously shelved until 1951 an American Federation of Labor plan for a study of slave labor in Russia and other countries behind the Iron Curtain.

Edward Arnold Stars In Gompers Role

New York.—Edward Arnold, screen and radio star, acts the role of Samuel Gompers in a new radio broadcast, "Builders of the Future" of the founder and first president of the AFL.

The play is one of a series entitled "Turning Points" dramatizing decisive moments in the lives of great Americans. It was written and produced by Nathan Zatkin and will be broadcast on many local radio stations.

The opening broadcast is the second radio dramatization of Gompers' life broadcast by the Ford Theatre, first entitled "The Education of a Labor Leader," and presented by The Eternal Light program over the NBC network.

Philadelphia.—Joseph Simone and Henry Segal hold check for $1,163.20 contributed by council 266 of the AFL Brotherhood of Sculptors and Paper Mill Workers to help defray the organizing drive of the AFL National Farm Labor Union. Some other members of the local committee look on.

Raise $1,163 for Sister Union

GIVES $2,560 GRANT

Chicago.—An unrestricted grant of $2,500 was awarded Roosevelt College by the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union. It was presented by ILGWU President David Dubinsky in recognition of Roosevelt College's service in fighting bias and discrimination in education.

Philly AFL Local Helps Farm Union

Philadelphia.—Local 266 of the AFL International Brotherhood of Sculptors, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers raised $1,163.20 to help finance the organizing drive of the AFL National Farm Labor Union as a part of the Samuel Gompers Centennial Organizing Campaign for 1,000,000 new members in 1950.

AFL President William Green thanked the Philly local "for the excellent work rendered in behalf of the National Farm Labor Union."

This organization," Mr. Green wrote, "is working in an important field for the betterment of the oppressed workers whose wages are exceptionally low and whose conditions of employment are intolerable. The assistance which you are rendering will be tremendously helpful."

Local 266 officers Joseph Simone and Henry Segal, international representative of the Paper Mill Workers, and Segal said that the fund-raising drive was conducted at the suggestion of Secretary John P. Burke called for locals to send assistance to the Organizing Fund by her Union. Mr. Burke acted upon request of Secretary-Treasurer Meany for financial assistance at the 1949 AFL convention when the Campers' organizing drive was initiated.

Other union members employed in paper-converting plants in charge of the conditions American workers are forced to work in today," Mr. Simone and Mr. Segal said. "We have been able to raise $1,163.20 and have forwarded this money to our international office to be turned over to the farm workers union."

Upholsterers Get Pensions for 3,000

Chicago.—Agreement in principle on a new employer-paid pension plan was announced by Walter Reuther, president of the United Automobile, Aircraft & Agricultural Implement Workers of America CIO, and Sal B. Hoffman, president of the Upholsterers International Union of North America AFL.

Mr. Hoffman said the union's negotiating committee would recommend that its 3,000 members employed in the Detroit area accept the plan. He said the union hoped eventually to bring all its 50,000 members and 2,000 employers in all phases of the upholstering industry.

The union president said the plan called for contributions of a fixed percentage of the employers' payroll to the pension fund. The union continues to take part in the federal social security system.

Employes, although not contributing to the pension fund, would also continue to take part in the federal social security system.

"Pension benefits to be paid from the fund," Mr. Hoffman said, "are presently under established actuarial risk evaluations," he said. Hoffman said, "The only thing fixed about it is the fact that employers will pay a definite sum into the pension fund.

Mr. Hoffmann said that the Kroehler company agreed upon the percentage of payroll to pay a definite sum into the pension fund.

The Kroehler company employes UIU member in Naperville, Ill.; Binghamton, N. Y.; Morton Grove, Ill.; Bowling Tex.; Inglewood, Calif.; Cleveland, O.

The union plan establishes a straight pension fund which will be national in scope. It will pay a definite sum in benefits for workers in the 5 major UIU industries operating the upholstered furniture, wood furniture, bedding, mattress, carpet, and canvas and sawing industries.

FOX APPOINTED

Chicago.—Because of the illness of President Fred W. Fox, the executive council of the AFL Railway Employes Department has designated Secretary-Treasurer Michael Fox as acting president, effective January 1, 1950. While acting, Mr. Fox will continue to carry on his duties as secretary-treasurer.

Oleo Tax Repeal Signed by Truman

Key West, Fla. — President Truman signed the bill repealing all federal taxes on oleomargarine effective next July 1.

Repeal of federal taxes on oleo has been advocated by the AFL for more than a quarter century.

The federal tax amounts to 10 cents a pound on colored oleo and one-quarter cent a pound on uncolored margarine.

Housing Roll Call Show Our Friends

Washington.—The roll call on the motion to recommit the housing bill to knock out loans to cooperatives shows a senators friendly to the peoples needs.

The AFL considers this probably the most important test this far in this session in the Senate. A vote for the amendment was a vote against liberal, low-cost housing. Check your senator's vote and remember it when he comes up for reelection:

For the Amendment (Against Housing)

Democrats, 11—Byrd, Chapman, Eli. Smith, Ellender, Hayden, Hill, Holland, Johnston, Maybank, Robertson, Russell, Stennis.

Republicans, 30—Brewster, Bricker, Bridges, Butler, Cain, Capehart, Cordon, Donnell, Dworshak, Ecton, Flanders, Gurney, Hendrickson, Hickenlooper, Ives, Kem, Knowland, Malone, Martin, Millikin, Reed, Saltonstall, Taft, Thye, Tobey, Watkins, Wherry, Williams, Wilson, Wiley, Wherry, Williams.

Against the Amendment (For Housing)

Democrats, 32—Anderson, Benton, Brewster, Bricker, Bridges, Butler, Cain, Gross, Hayden, Hill, Humphrey, Kefauver, Kerr, Kilgore, Langer, Lehman, Long, Lucas, Magnuson, Mahoney, Martin, Millikin, Monroney, Morse, Murray, Myers, Neely, O'Mahoney, Sparkman, Taylor, Thomas, Utah.

Republicans, 13—Aiken, Baldwin, Ferguson, Flanders, Gurney, Hendrickson, Ives, Langer, Lodge, Smith (Maine).

Census Questions Begin on April 1

Washington.—Uncle Sam is getting ready to take another headcount.

Armed with questions, pencils and maps, 30,000 census takers will begin April 1 to make the every-10-years count of population, houses and farms.

The census director hopes to count the 150 million people and gather 5 billion facts. The count normally will take 3 weeks in the cities, twice as long in rural areas. It will take 2 years to tabulate all the results.

The government needs to know the nation has nearly 20 million more people than in 1940. For the first time in history women will outnumber the men.

The census will show the nation has also completed its mortgage debt. Some 70 million people have changed residence since 1940. That probably will mean some western states will get additional legislators in Congress—and some eastern states will get a cut in their representation.

Every person in the United States, citizen or alien, will become a record to be filed away as the Census Bureau's headquarters in Suitland, Md., outside Washington.

Babies born after April 1 won't count—they'll receive birth cards the census-taker. People who die while the census is in progress won't be counted if they were living on April 1.

The Census Bureau will train 140,000 bell-ringers to bring the nation's vital statistics up to date.

The 1950 census-takers—like those of 1940—will be hunted by goats, cornered by bulls and bitten by dogs. They will get marriage proposals and will arbitrate family quarrels. They will visit dog-runs, trailer camps and solo "jungles." Alaskan igloos will be covered by dog sled, Hawaiian island by motor launch and mountain bayous by row boat.

One census-taker enumerator acted as a dress-making dummy while he measured Mrs. Archambault's waist in 1940.

A South Dakota woman interviewer was greeted with a shotgun and then offered a job as census-taker herself. A Virginia politico was told, "Mama's down at the still."

The census-taker may call in the FBI, but he can't call in the police. It's a criminal offense to refuse to answer. But once you've talked, you will ever know the information but you and the Census Bureau. Not even the FBI or the federal tax collectors have a look at the confidential information collected by the census. It all comes out in impersonal charts and tables.

The 1950 enumerators will be better paid than they were 10 years ago. They'll earn $8 to $10 a day compared to about $5 in 1940.

The numerators will not want to know about your operation or the name of your dog. But they will ask one person in five if he has a television set. All told, there are some 85 queries on the census questionnaires, but no one person will be asked all of them.

The AFL supports the American Heart Association drive.

TEXTILE WORKERS SET CONVENTION

Washington. — The AFL United Textile Workers has scheduled it for the 11th biennial convention to be held in New York City beginning March 19.

More than 850 delegates are expected to attend, it was said by President Anthony Valente and Secretary-Treasurer Lloyd Klemm.

Among the most important items that will come up for consideration at the convention is the proposal made recently by Secretary-Treasurer Meany for an increase in the per capita tax from 75c to $1 per month.

The consolidation of the union in the past 2 years, and the complete elimination of factional strife, has enabled the union to turn its complete attention to the great task of organizing textile workers, especially in the South and Canada. For this purpose, the union must have substantial financial resources.

In response to the board's call for action, an increasing number of locals have already voted voluntarily for the $1 per capita. The proposal before the convention will be to make the $1 per capita mandatory for all locals.

PLAN CONFERENCES

Washington.—A national conference on workmen's compensation and rehabilitation will be held here March 27 and 28, William Connolly, director of the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Standards, heads a planning committee representing various interested groups. Members of this committee include Lewis G. Hines, of the American Federation of Labor.

Byrd-crats Defeat Co-op Housing Bill

Alaska, Honolulu To Honor Gompers

New York.—AFL organizations in the two territories approved by the House of Representatives for statehood will honor Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL.

A. S. Reiz, secretary of the Central Labor Council of Alaska, reports that its present plans call for a Gompers Centennial dinner on the evening of Labor Day.

T. B. Erickson, executive secretary of the Alaska Territorial Federation of Labor, has informed the Gompers Centennial Committee that his organization has appointed committees to "honor the memory of Samuel Gompers at its convention banquet in Ketchikan during the last week in October."

Washington.—The Senate coalition of Democratic Republicans and Byrd Dixiecrats narrowly defeated the bill which would have provided AFL and other middle-income families with the chance to build their own decent housing.

The setback by 43-38 on March 15 threw the issue into the House where chances of enactment this session still appeared less bright than in the Senate.

Nevertheless the AFL drew lines to block the efforts of the Byrd-crats for the kind of a bill that middle-income families need to get the housing which profit-greedy private interests refused to provide.

The AFL regarded the roll call as one of the most important tests of this session of Congress in disclosing labor's friends. A switch of 4 votes would have meant victory in the fight. Unfortunately, 9 senators committed to support the measure were absent campaigning for reelection or were ill.

Thirty Republicans and 13 Democrats—10 from the South, 2 from border states and 1 from the Midwest—contributed to the stinging setback for the Truman forces.

Long-term, low-interest loans for cooperative and nonprofit urgent corporations had been sought upon the recommendation of President Truman not only in the interest of helping alleviate the housing crisis but also, as some frankly admitted in the interest of more full employment throughout the nation.

While Home Insurance for the aged, and particularly for the cooperative movement, was being defeated by a barrage of telegrams from the Domestic Affairs Committee, party leaders around the country adding that they, in turn, try to swing their senators for the measure.

After killing the provision, the bill later was restored, the Senate by a roll call vote passed a bill approving $2,000,000,000 for the construction of middle-income housing and rejecting a proposal for a public housing program.

Is A Life Worth More Than A Duck?

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent of AFL News Service

Chicago.—Jack Kroll, president of the Chicago Teachers Union (AFL), says a teacher's life ought to be worth more than a duck.

As secretary of the health and welfare committee of the Chicago Federation of Labor, he was one of two labor men to testify at a hearing and meeting in Chicago by Gov. Adlai Stevenson.

The governor and his labor director, Willard Wirtz, are working to organize a program to reduce industrial accidents in the state. The meeting was preliminary to a Governor's Conference on Industrial Safety to be held in the spring, at which committees organized at the preliminary meeting will present their findings and recommendations.

Stevenson and Annunzio had statistics available which boiled down to the facts that one person was killed or hurt every 3 minutes of each working day in Illinois industry last year. More than $125,000,000 was lost in production time and in actual money.

Fewkes pointed out that the government of Illinois spends $1 for every 3 times as much for its wild life conservation service as it does for inspection of factories and enforce the state safety laws.

"As one practical step toward the reduction of industrial accidents in Illinois," said Fewkes, "I should like to suggest that we attempt to increase the 13¼ cents now expended on each worker hurt to at least 20 cents.

"None of us, I am sure, would disagree that the life and limbs of workers are more important than a duck. Therefore, let Illinois, by enactment of money spent on the conservation of wild life, spend in some degree of 20 cents per capita—compared with 13 cents per worker hurt—on industrial accident prevention work to conserve human life and limbs with equal regard for the duck.

"Only a few workers get the opportunity to fish or hunt, while all of them are exposed to occupational hazards."

Six technical committees were appointed to study various phases of plans for accident reduction to be submitted at the state conference on March 1-and 2. Fewkes was appointed vice chairman of the committee on industry.

According to the governor, the majority of industrial accidents occur in plants employing 25 persons or more, in which there is no organized safety program. Illinois has 1,500 of the 90 percent of industrial accidents in factories are preventable, the governor believes.

PLAN APPRENTICE TRAINING MEETS

Washington.—James A. Brownlow, international president of the AFL Metal Trades Department, urges representatives of apprenticeship and training to attend one of a series of regional conferences scheduled in May and June.

The conferences will be held May 1-2, Miami, Fla., for Southern States; May 22-23, Seaside, Ore., for the 11 western states; June 8-10, Poland Springs, Me., covering the northeast section.

"These conferences," Mr. Brownlow said, "should be of special interest by anyone interested in apprenticeship and labor, with particular attention to the considerations and results directly affecting apprenticeable craft within the AFL."

SMOKING LESS?

Washington.—U. S. smokers used 3¼ billion more cigarettes in 1949 than in 1948 but there was a decrease per adult over 20 in consumption per capita. The Department of Agriculture suggested that the demand for cigarettes may be leveling off after a series of record-breaking years.

CHEMICAL UNION GAINS BENEFITS

Parlin, N. J.—Hercules Powder Co. workers, a pay raise of 5 cents an hour and welfare benefits totaling another 4 cents an hour.

Local 271 of the AFL International Chemical Workers represents the employes. After 10 days of negotiations by the 2-year contract were granted following a vote of 1,100 to 1 for a strike.

The pay raise is retroactive. The company proposal for certain increased benefits in the existing company-financed pension plan.

Last Call Issued To Enter Big Show

Washington.—Time is short for officials of AFL national and international unions and management and qualified business firms and other industrial groups interested in bargaining agreements with AFL unions, to file applications for space for booths to exhibit at the 1950 Union Industries Show—the only one of its kind in the world—to be held May 8-12 in Philadelphia.

Show Director Matthew Woll said: "Interest in every branch of the American Federation of Labor should be represented in the show but, to be effective, we desire full participation by workers actually at least 50 percent, of industries, and fair employers of service establishments.

"This is the last call for prospective exhibitors in our anticipation show to obtain the desired amount of floor space in one building. Only booths in our union-made wares and demonstrations will be assigned space.

"Let's make the fifth Union Industries Show the greatest event of its kind in all history. It is the biggest. Let's fill it with live exhibits and make it the best."

Call Conference In Pennsylvania

Harrisburg.—The Pennsylvania Federation of Labor will hold a statewide apprenticeship conference April 6.

President James L. McDevitt said: "We are most enthusiastic over the interest about the possibilities of promoting apprenticeship programs in industry throughout the state and have been much encouraged by the response of so many affiliated unions to our questionnaire.

"To help us properly initiate our educational program we have secured the commitment of a number of outstanding authorities in the field, including the chairman of the War Labor Board; John D. Connors, director Workers' Education Bureau of America, AFL, and Prof. Anthony Luchek, head of Labor Education Service, Pennsylvania State College.

"There will also be in attendance representatives of leading colleges and universities who will join us in laying foundations for a real Workers' Education Program for our movement in Pennsylvania. The conference will be highlighted with a forum debate on the question of 'Universal Compulsory Health Insurance,' with Dr. Nelson Cruikshank, director of Insurance Activities of the AFL, speaking for the affirmative and Dr. Louis H. Bauer, chairman Board of Trustees, The American Medical Association, for the negative."

FAVOR ARBITRATION

Washington.—A recent survey by the U. S. Labor Department shows that over 80 percent of the current labor-management agreements studied provide for the arbitration of differences. Ninety percent of the agreements call for the arbitration of disputes under the contract.

Teamsters Sign Welfare Contract

New York.—An employer-financed welfare plan, said to be the most comprehensive in the general trucking industry, was signed April 15 by 45 wholesale liquor distributors and Local 816, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, AFL.

The program is a major step in a campaign for welfare benefits for the 6-12 in Philadelphia area and across the country. The project covers 496 workers and their families.

Life insurance, disability benefits, hospitalization and surgical care will be provided through employer contributions of 3 percent of payroll, an estimated expenditure of $50,000 annually, it was announced.

March 1, will cost the employes nothing.

Martin T. Lacey, business manager of Local 816, said the plan would be eligible for $1,500 life insurance, $25 weekly benefits, unemployment insurance, weekly disability benefits, hospital and surgical reimbursements up to $200 and Blue Cross hospitalization for family and his family. The accident and sickness benefits would be available to families under the New York State Disability Benefits Law.

The plan is to be operated through the Teamsters Health and Welfare Fund and administered by three trustees, two of whom are labor members.

Other negotiations are understood to be under way with 150 milk companies in the New York-New Jersey and Connecticut and with meat and hotel industry employers.

WINSLOW HEADS WASHINGTON ILO

Washington.—Thatcher Winslow, special assistant in the Undersecretary of Labor's office, has been director of the Washington branch of the International Labor Organization for the past 15 years. He was the United States Government representative at the 1947 and 1948 sessions of the ILO governing body, and substitute United States representative at several other sessions. He was government adviser in the United States delegation to the 1946 and 1948 sessions of the International Labor Conference.

Mr. Winslow was born in Newton, Mass., Sept. 16, 1907. He graduated from Harvard in 1929 cum laude and did graduate work there in history in 1930.